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Ohio Mycological Bulletin No. 9

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Columbus, Ohio, September 30, 1903.

NOTES.—The Jack-my-Lantern fungus or as the learned call it, Cli-toe'-y-be il-lu'-dens, has been sent oftener than any other species, and the belief is often expressed that it would be good to eat. Unfortunately

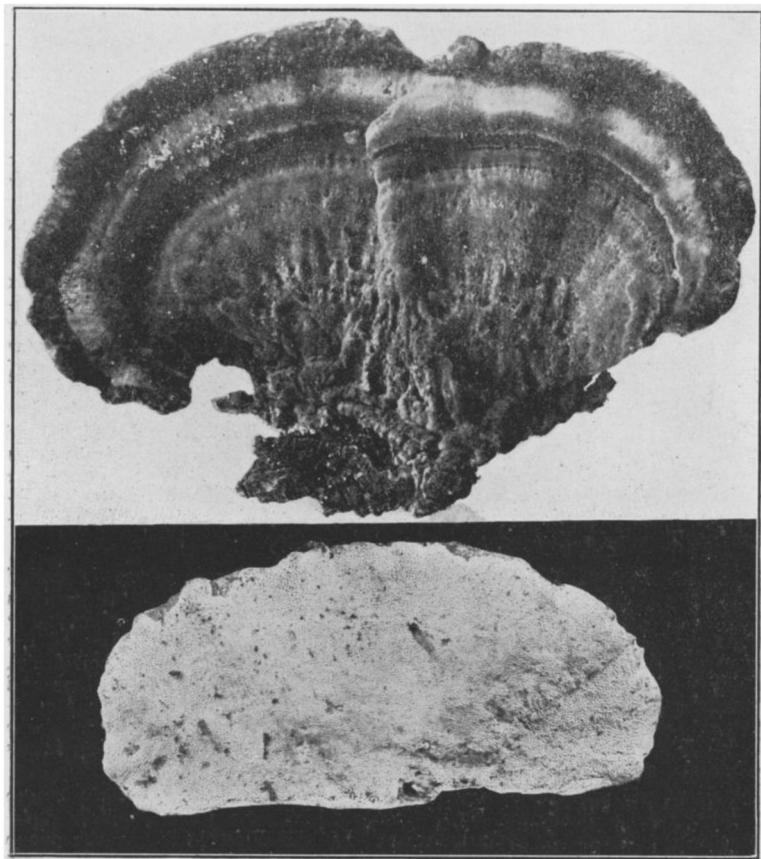


Fig. 39. Hairy Poly'porus. Po-ly-stic'-tus hir-su'-tus. A very common but tough species, easily recognized by the dense coating of hairs on upper surface. Both upper and lower surfaces are shown in figure; from photograph of specimens collected at Columbus.

Entered as Second Class Matter, Post-office at Columbus, O.

this attractive species is *not edible*. It is a conspicuous yellow Toad-stool, a gill-fungus that grows most commonly about old stumps or dead trees or rotting gate-posts. The color throughout in young specimens is a rich saffron yellow, but in old plants the color becomes sordid or brownish. The stems may be three-fourths inch in diameter or thicker, and the plants eight or ten inches high. This interesting point can be easily verified, namely, that the gill-portion (or under side of the cap) is phosphorescent, *i. e.* luminous after dark; take a fresh young specimen to the house and in a dark room the experiment can be tried. This species is abundant in the summer and early fall.

Supt. J. N. Baker reports a Puff-ball at Bowling Green 14 inches in diameter. The dimensions of a *Po-ly'-po-rus sul-fu'-re-us*, the Sulphur-colored Pol'-ypore, "27 inches across the top, 16 inches deep and 7 or 8 inches thick, weight about 16 lbs.," are reported by Miss Myrtle Leighley, Hartville, Ohio.

Mr. Willis H. Ropes, member of the Boston Mycological Club, says "last Monday we had eighty-eight varieties on the plates" at Salem, Mass., where Mushroom exhibitions and lectures are being held.

Two unusual specimens of the *Col-lyb'-i-a rad-i-ca'-ta* were found in a woods near Sandusky during the summer. They were growing on a rotten log—an unusual habitat. The "root," *i. e.* lower tapering end of the stem, could not penetrate the rather firm though very rotten wood and therefore had not at all developed; it was a "root-less" *rad-i-ca'-ta*. The other specimen had developed its "root"—but it was turned at a right angle following the surface of the matrix on which it rested. This neat edible species is a very common one, its root-like stem below being very characteristic; we hope to have a half-tone of it in the BULLETIN later.

NEXT YEAR.—Thanks are extended to all who have taken interest in the BULLETIN and mycological matters in general, and now also especially to those who have kindly sent the subscription for 1904! I have lately persuaded myself to say that the BULLETIN will be issued on the same basis next year, "price 10 cents." This amount pays but a portion of the cash expense, but the generosity of interested "persons with means" will doubtless enable me to defray all costs. Some friends in foreign countries have requested the copies as issued, and for them I am obliged to fix the price at 25 cents, to cover postage. Those sending 10 cents now will receive all the 1903 Numbers issued—as long as copies are available. The above announcement has been called forth prematurely—though the contribution box is already open; other numbers of the BULLETIN will appear this year.

THE POL'-Y-PORES, or PORE-FUNGI.—This large group is called *Pol-y'-po-ra-ce-ae* (sound the "y" like short "i"), because there is a honey-combed fruiting surface on the lower side of the plants; in other words, there are *many pores*, which is the real meaning of the name of the group. They are also called Bracket-fungi or Shelf-fungi, alluding to the general form and method of attachment to trees, logs and stumps, where most of the species are to be found. They are the commonest of all fungi and everyone who ever went to the woods has seen them. The cuts shown will give a fair idea of some of the striking forms—but the subject will be taken up in a later BULLETIN.

It should perhaps be explained at once that the name of the group is formed from the name *Po-ly'-po-rus* which was given to these characteristic plants by the early botanists. In 1851 Fries broke up the group (*ge-nus*) into three *gen-er-a* (this is the plural for *ge-nus*), using the names for them as follows: *Fo'-mes*, *Pol-y-stic'-tus* and *Po'-ri-a*.

Now other ge-ner-ic names are coming into use as Gan-o-der'-ma, Pyro-po-ly'-po-rus, Scu'-ti-ger, Po-ro-dis-cus and goodness knows how many others. However, we will leave all these to the refined botanist, and use Po-ly'-po-rus as a common name for the whole lot.

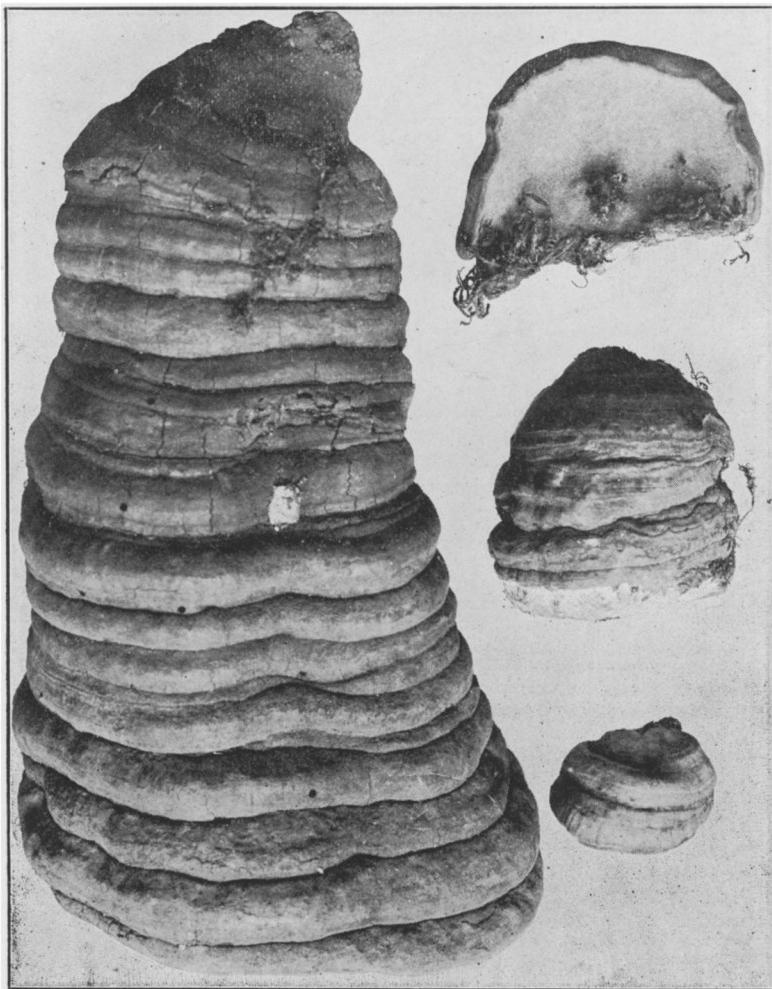
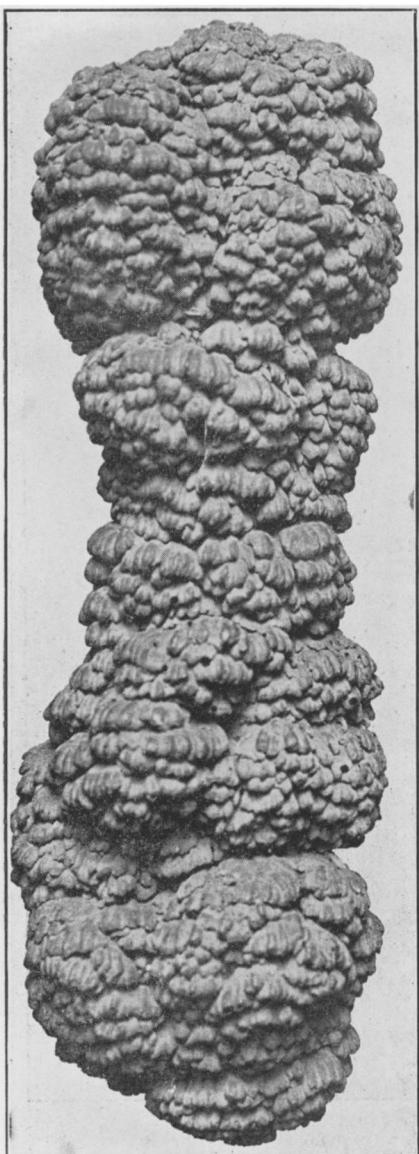


Fig. 40. Beech and Birch Poly'porus. *Fo'mes fo-men-ta'ri-us*. A woody species very abundant on old trunks of Birch and Beech trees—sometimes on other hosts. The plant is perennial—the annual layers showing very plainly in the large specimen. The cut was made from photographs of specimens collected in the mountains of West Virginia, where it is one of the commonest species on the Yellow Birch. Being a hardy, woody species, it is of course not edible. It is a conspicuous and easily recognizable *saprophyte* (*i. e.* living on dead organic matter). It is not known to grow on living trees—in other words, it is never a *parasite* as a few of the Polypori are now known to be.



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Fig. 41. Thatched Poly'porus, or Thatched Pol'-y-pore. Fo'-mes grav-e-ō-lens. A remarkable woody species, mostly subglobose or polycephalous; elongated on standing trunks. When fresh, has a strong, disagreeable odor, hence the specific name. It was formerly called *P. con-glo-ba-tus*. From photograph of specimen collected by L. F. Cheney, at Princeton, Ohio.

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